

It had corresponded with the leaders of Russian proletariat and got more inspiration from them, as well as from the Italian Party, from Comrade Grimm,⁵ than from our British comrades, despite the fact that the Union Committee consisted mainly of the British. At its fifth conference the League has attached itself to the Third International which was greeted by singing The Red Flag. Coming to the end of this part of our report we inform you that in 1917 Comrade W.H. Andrews was sent on a mission to Europe for participating in the Stockholm conference as a delegate. According to instructions he was elected a delegate of the afore-mentioned conference. A special meeting that appointed Comrade Andrews as its delegate to Stockholm passed the following resolution:

'It is necessary to send a delegate on a mission of participating at the International Socialist Congress in Stockholm or any other place where it may be convened with the purpose of uniting Socialists of all countries, both fighting and neutral, for the creation of a new International. The delegate should be instructed to stand up for peace and vote for it on the basis of destroying the capitalist system and of the creation of the Socialist society.'

As you know, this Conference never took place. Comrade Andrews has done a valuable work in England. Despite his perfect credentials (confirmed by Arthur Henderson) our comrade was not allowed to attend the united Socialist conference in London. The South African Labour Party was represented at this conference by Colonel Cresswell although at that time the Labour Party did not exist. This shows the arrogance of the afore-mentioned conference. Industrial movement nominated two candidates, Comrade Andrews and Tom Mann from England to stand for its delegate to Stockholm. Tom Mann got two votes more than Com. Andrews and was confirmed as the delegate. The industrial movement, however, was not supposed to be represented by a member of the British Labour Party [...]

With fraternal greetings to all comrades at the
Third International we remain united with
you in the revolutionary struggle.

J. Bakker and S. Barlin

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Zinoviev:⁶ I think that it is expedient to organise a commission to study the question about the Blacks. This question has been superficially discussed twice but because of the absence of comrades from Africa this has not led to any

5. The identity of Comrade Grimm could not be established.

6. G.E. Zinoviev chaired the session.

conclusions. I ask to devise a document on this issue and to discuss the South African question together with the comrades.

A Finnish comrade from Stockholm: I would like to propose to unite all parties in Africa, Australia which are subordinate to Britain in one Central Committee and to place it under the Executive Committee. It should, however, be transferred to another European city for Moscow is too far removed from these comrades.

Zinoviev: I propose Quelch, Jansen, Varga for this commission.

Quelch: I propose the fourth, Comrade Roy.

Zinoviev: The proposal is accepted. Both African comrades are invited to participate in the work of this commission. So the question is settled for the moment.

RGASPI, 495/1/22/31-53.

Original in Russian (Comintern translation of an English original text that has not been found in the Archive).

Typed.

3

Letter from J. Den Bakker to ECCL, 12 March 1921

Tashkent
12th March 1921

The Secretary
III International
Moscow.

My Dear Comrade Kobetsky,

I don't know when I will be back in Moscow. The delegates intend to extend our trip from here to Baku.

I intend to return to South Africa soon after my return in Moscow, unless the International Socialist league or the Building Workers Industrial Union gives me definite instructions to do otherwise.

I expect to hear from both these organisations at any moment.

As far back as August 1917, before the Russian communists had actually taken power into their hands, the I.S.L. issued a leaflet under the name of the 'Call of the Bolsheviks'. An appeal to the workers of Africa to adopt the revolutionary methods of the Russian Communists. Ever since, it has supported the Soviet government whole heartedly.

At our fifth Conference Jan. 5th 1920, we affiliated to the III International.

If the III Int. gives me full instructions, as to how to act in S.A. I feel confident that these instructions will be carried out by the league and that it will also secure the formation of one big Communist party.

What is the attitude of the III Int. towards the League? Does it accept its affiliation?

The S. African report should constitute a suitable basis for the III Int. to draw up a policy for the SA communist movement.

So far the League has not been able to branch out to agricultural districts. There are great prospects of making headway among the agricultural workers if we could only reach them.

We also intend to start a Dutch weekly in addition to 'The International'.

Arrangements should also be made, to furnish me with a set of photographs, literature etc.

Hoping that arrangement will be made to enable me to leave as soon as possible.

I remain
Fraternally Yours

J. den Bakker

M.C.¹ International Socialist League SA.

RGASPI, 495/64/2/1-2.

Original in English.

Handwritten.

1. Probably, Member of the Committee.

**Letter from J. Den Bakker to M. Kobetsky,
[March-April 1921]¹**

The Secretary
III International

Dear Comrade Kobetsky,

Yesterday, I received £150 pounds for my journey to South Africa, which I will fully require.

It takes about three months to report to the political movement in the coast towns, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth and Capetown. Train fare are expensive in S.A.

The Trades Union movement will pay my expensive,² but the political movement may not be in financial position to do so.

Personally I have no financial means, being a worker. I have spent all I had to come to Russia, therefore I apply for another 150 pounds for propaganda purposes.

I also will buy out of that pamphlets in Holland as the majority in S.A. are Dutch.

Is the affiliation of the International Socialist League been accepted? If so please give me a document to that effect, so that the League will have some official standing in calling the Unity conference.

I remain
Fraternally yours
J. den Bakker.

RGASPI, 495/64/2/3.

Original in English.

Handwritten.

Inscription: 26.

1. The date established on the basis of the contents of the document.

2. Expenses.